

Parma Woods

Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

Spring 2005



Goodbye Cabin Fever!

Springtime is here and soon all outdoor enthusiasts will be enjoying the outdoors. For me, it's looking for morels and hunting big toms. Whether or not I come home with a bag full of mushrooms or a turkey for the deep fryer, I always enjoy my time in the spring woods. Hearing that first whip-poor-will early in the morning, frogs beginning to chirp at night, and seeing wildflowers in bloom - it's like hearing or seeing it for the first time all over again.

This year will be an even more exciting spring as the Parma Woods Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center will hold several events for the first time in our short history. In early April, we will hold a youth turkey clinic for youngsters ages 11-15. This will be an all day class where participants and their sponsors will learn about turkey habitat and biology. We will also do some hands on activities including building a blind from brush, patterning your shotgun, using turkey calls, and, most important, learning about hunting safety.

Even though this class is for the beginning turkey hunter, you must have your Hunter Education Certification completed. Be sure to get it before you attend the class. If you are a youth and need a sponsor, please let us know as we have volunteers who can be your sponsor for this special event.

Eric Edwards

First Ever Day Camp

This summer, the Parma Woods Outdoor Education Center will hold its first ever day camp. Youths age 11-15 (by the first day of camp) will earn their Hunter Education Certification. They will apply the skills they learn in class doing activities at the range. Youngsters will participate in a variety of skills including .22 rifle shooting, blackpowder shooting, archery, claybird shooting, camping, and hiking.

Day campers will go through the Missouri Hunter Education course. However, the 10-hour classroom portion of the course will be spread out over the entire week. Participants will use their new found knowledge on the range with equipment provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

The camp is Monday through Friday, June 20-24. Camp begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends 3:30 p.m. each day. The camp will conclude with an awards ceremony and pizza party on Friday. The cost is \$50 for supplies and a t-shirt for each participant.

This is a camp I have conducted in the past at the St. Louis range. I can tell you from experience that the kids who participate in the camp learn a lot and develop long lasting friendships with other participants as well as instructors. This will be the best \$50 you can invest in your youth's outdoor education.

Eric Edwards



Spring Events Calendar

All programs and clinics are free to the public unless otherwise noted. All equipment is provided free of charge by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Pre-registration is required. Call 816-891-9941.

APRIL

Youth Turkey Clinic

Learn how to have a safe, productive turkey hunt. **April 2** (Sat.), 8 am-3 pm

Hunter Education Class

For ages 11 and older. You must attend all three nights to become certified.

April 5-7 (Tues.-Thurs.), 5:30-9 pm

Shotgun Patterning

Ever wonder what is the best load and shot size? Sign up for this class and find out.

April 8 (Fri.), 6-8 pm

Turkey Calling

Find out how to use all types of turkey calls and what calls to make. **April 12**, 6-8 pm

How to Build a Turkey Blind

The title gives this one away.

April 13 (Wed.), 6-8p.m.

Beginning Archery

Learn safety, terms, and the fundamentals of shooting a bow and arrow.

April 16 (Sat.), 8-10 am

Dutch Oven Cooking

Learn how to make some tasty meals at your next campout, and you get to eat what you make in this class!

April 16 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Bow Hunter Education

You must attend both nights to become certified.

April 19-20 (Tues.-Wed.), 5:30-9 pm

Intro to Muzzle Loaders - Part 1

Learn the history as well as how to safely load, shoot, and store a muzzle loader.

April 21 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Shooting Muzzle Loaders - Part 2

Part two of the intro. class.

April 23 (Sat.), 8-10 am

Basic Shotgun

Learn how to shoot a shotgun safely and effectively...bust claybirds consistently.

April 23 (Sat.), 8 am-12 noon

Managing Your Land for Quail

Wish you had more coveys of quail to hunt? Learn how to make your land more habitable for quail.

April 26 (Tues.), 6-8 pm

Ladies Shotgun

Learn how to shoot claybirds with ease, as well as proper gun handling techniques.

April 29 (Fri.), 5:30-8:30 pm

.22 Rifle for the Beginner

This basic class will show you the fun and safe sport of plinking.

April 30 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Basic Archery

Learn a life long activity in our basic archery class. Designed for all ages.

April 30 (Sat.), 12 noon-3 pm

MAY

Ladies Firearms

Learn safety as well as the proper shooting fundamentals and caring for all types of firearms.

May 7 (Sat.), 9 am-1 pm

How to build a Campfire

We'll roast hotdogs and marshmallows after learning how to build a fire.

May 7 (Sat.), 6 pm

RANGE CLOSED - MAY 9

Hunter Education Class

For ages 11 and older. You must be present all three nights to become certified.

May 10-12 (Tues.-Thurs.), 5:30-9 pm

Bird Watching

Learn what birds are eating at your feeder?

May 14 (Sat.), 8-11 am

Outdoor Photography

Learn how to take great outdoor photos.

May 14 (Sat.), 12 noon-3 pm

Bow Hunter Education Class

You must be present both nights to obtain certification.

May 17-18 (Tues.-Wed.), 5:30-9 pm

Dutch Oven Cooking

Come hungry! We'll show you how to make a delicious meal in your Dutch oven.

May 19 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Youth Air Gun

Students will learn fundamentals to safely shoot an air rifle (parent or guardian must attend). **May 21** (Sat.), 8-10 am

Youth .22 Rifle

Youth's will learn to properly handle a .22 rifle (parent or guardian must attend).

May 21 (Sat.), 11 am-1 pm

Backpacking 101

Learn the essential tools and items needed for backpacking and how to use them.

May 24 (Tues.) 6-8 pm

Birdhouse Making

Learn what types of houses attract the birds you want in your backyard and then build one in this class.

May 25 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Beginning Archery

Learn the basics of this fun sport. For all ages.

May 26 (Thurs.), 6-8p.m.

Basic Shotgun

This two-part class will cover everything from parts of the gun to how to be a proficient wing shooter. **May 27** (Fri.), 6-8 pm and **May 28** (Sat.), 8-10 am

Basic Handgun

Too busy on the weekends? Sign up for this 4-hour course to learn the safe and proper ways of shooting a handgun.

May 31 (Tues.), 8 am-12 noon

JUNE

Ladies Firearms Class

This two-part class will cover everything from types and parts of a gun to becoming an accurate shooter. **June 3** (Fri.), 6-8 pm and **June 4** (Sat.) 9-11 am

Plinking

Learn the fun of plinking at this class designed for all ages.

June 7 (Tues.), 9:00 am-12:00 noon

Wild Edibles

Learn what plants are tasty and safe to eat.

June 8 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Wildflower I.D.

Wonder what type of flower that is that blooms each year around your house? Come find out, plus learn where to look for your favorite wildflowers in the area.

June 9 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Basic Handgun

This is a two-part class covering parts of the gun, ammo, and shooting proficiency.

June 10, 6-8 pm and **June 11**, 9-11 am

Reloading Center-Fire Ammo

This two-night class will teach you how to properly reload your rifle and handgun loads for hunting, plinking or competition.

June 14, 6-8 pm and **June 15**, 6-8 pm

Fishing Clinic

Find out where to find fish and how to land them.

June 16 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Muzzle Loaders

Learn the ins and outs of traditional sidelocks and flinters, as well as the modern in-lines in this two-part class.

June 17, 6-8 pm and **June 18**, 9-11 am

Claybird Shooting

Learn the fundamentals for shooting claybirds.

June 18 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Hunter Education Day Camp

For youths 11-15 (by the first day of camp). See article on front page for more details.

June 20-24 (Mon.-Fri.), 8:30 am-3:30 pm

Reloading Shotshells

Take this two-part class to learn the cost effective way of shooting your scatter gun.

June 21, 6-8 pm and **June 22**, 6-8 pm

Youth Squirrel Clinic and Hunt

For youths ages 11-15 (parent or guardian must attend).

Learn habitat, biology, and hunting techniques for an enjoyable and rewarding time in the woods. The clinic will be followed by a hunt the next morning at dawn for the first 5 youths who sign up.

June 24 (Fri.), 6-8 pm (clinic)

June 25 (Sat.), dawn (hunt)

Firearm Maintenance

Learn how to properly care for your firearm.

June 29 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Parma Class Revisited: Antler Scoring

The Parma Woods Outdoor Education Center offers many training classes for the public. Below are photos from a recent class for scoring whitetail deer racks. Check out our events calendar and take advantage of the many upcoming classes. You can learn a lot and it's a fun experience.

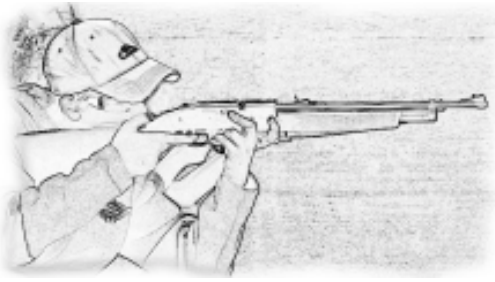


Volunteers Welcome!

*Want to share the outdoors with others?
Or enjoy being at the range and
visiting with other shooters?*

Become a Parma Woods Volunteer!
No teaching experience is required.

Call 816-891-9941



2005 Range Hours

January 1-April 30, Noon-4:30 pm, Friday-Tuesday
May 1-September 30, 10 am-4 pm, Friday-Sunday
May 1-September 30, 2 pm-8 pm, Monday-Tuesday

Pass It On Passing the enjoyment and passion for hunting on to the next generation has been a tough thing to do the past few years. It seems kids have more options to fill their time and less mentors to instill this great sport of hunting. However, Missouri is the only state that had an increase in youth hunting participation in the last ten years.

Passing hunting on to future generations is the only way that we can be sure that our sport will never give up the ghost. Think back to the first rabbit hunt with your father or grandfather. I remember with a smile at how excited I was. The anticipation was enough to make my heart race as we were just getting in the truck to drive to the field. All my days in the field as a youth are my favorite memories. I'm very grateful that my father, grandfather, friends, and relatives showed me what they knew and took the time to take a kid out with them. I am returning the favor that they did for me by passing my knowledge onto my kids, younger cousins, and other young people so some day down the road they too can pass it on.

So the next time you head outdoors, bring one or more youngsters along with you. It could be your own kids, a niece, a nephew, or a young neighbor. "It's better to give than to receive" is certainly true when mentoring a youth in the great sport of hunting. Every time I talk to someone about taking kids on a successful hunt, I always hear the words "I was more excited than they were"... ALWAYS!

Eric Edwards

Check out the latest Parma Woods news at: www.mdc.missouri.gov/areas/ranges/parma/



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